

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND FACILITIES



ICRC

ICRC'S MAIN ACTIVITIES IN VENEZUELA BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2023

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people, using a participatory and inclusive approach that brings together communities, local authorities and volunteers from the Venezuelan Red Cross. Together, we find solutions that reduce their exposure to risk, support positive coping strategies and mitigate the humanitarian consequences of armed violence, which may include families becoming separated and difficulties in the access to essential resources such as water, healthcare and livelihoods, among others.

In the first six months of 2023, we helped **344,512 people affected** by armed violence with a holistic response for people living in the states of Aragua, Miranda, Capital District, Táchira, Apure, Zulia and Bolívar.

Here are the details of our work:



IMPROVING THE LIVES OF AFFECTED PEOPLE



132 students received a cash grant -provided to an **agricultural college** in Apure state- to buy livestock and concentrated animal feed to support the teaching of agriculture.



99 young people from Petare in Miranda state received vocational and entrepreneurial skills training, which will indirectly benefit more than **400 families**.



146 families in La Macanilla and 84 families in Puerto Páez in Apure state received fertilizer, seeds and hygiene items to improve their agricultural production and grow healthier food to eat.



332 health-care workers were trained in advanced trauma care, basic emergency care and first aid.



8 facilities -including hospitals, primary health-care centres, schools, forensics facilities and prisons-benefited from upgrades to their infrastructure and essential services.



149 households were provided with training, material support and water storage tanks to help them cultivate urban gardens in the Caracas neighbourhood of La Cota 905.



35 people in El Choco, Bolívar state, received individual financial support to help them cope with the consequences of violence in their lives.



138 people in the states of Bolívar, Aragua, Miranda and Capital District learned how to keep themselves safe during armed violence.



20.9 tonnes of medical supplies were distributed to 30 health-care centres.



316 staff in hospitals, primary health-care facilities and schools took part in psychosocial support sessions organized by the ICRC.

RECONNECTING FAMILIES



4,289 connectivity services were provided to separated families.



19 Red Cross messages were collected and **23** were delivered to reconnect people separated from their loved ones.



Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, the Venezuelan Chancellery and the ICRC, a child was reunited with their family in Venezuela.



Cooperation with The Venezuelan Red Cross

We work in partnership with the Venezuelan Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to improve our collective impact, which ultimately improves our response for the country's most vulnerable people.

In 2023, we are continuing to work with Venezuelan Red Cross volunteers in a range of programme areas. Our aim is to strengthen their operational response, so they can respond effectively to the most urgent humanitarian needs.

These activities include creating urban gardens, which provide people in the Caracas neighbourhood of La Cota 905 with a new source of income and a supply of food for their families. Together with the Venezuelan Red Cross, we are also promoting first aid and hygiene in communities which have limited access to essential services.

This potentially life-saving work has a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Venezuelans. We work in partnership to better understand people's needs and to develop a response that is safe and appropriate for sensitive and violent contexts. During the first six months of the year, we maintained our momentum in providing training, with **120 volunteers trained** in Safer Access and many others trained in managing operational risk, Restoring Family Links and nutrition.

STRENGTHENING FORENSIC SERVICES



The **National Forensic Medicine and Science Service (SENAMECF) in Maracay and San Fernando de Apure** was upgraded and improved to ensure that those who have died are treated with dignity and that forensic doctors have an appropriate environment for examining and identifying the dead.



418 members of the national police, the ombudsman's office, the Integral Defence Operations Zones (ZODI Caracas), the Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigation Unit (CICPC) and the SENAMECF were trained in the handling of dead bodies, the legal framework for identifying the dead and the recovery of human remains in hard-to-access locations.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL NORMS AMONG WEAPON BEARERS



369 law enforcement officials took part in seminars on international humanitarian law and national and international legislation regulating the use of force.

ENSURING DECENT CONDITIONS FOR PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY



10,216 people in nine civilian and military detention centres received visits from the ICRC.



13,600 personal hygiene kits were distributed to detainees in eight detention centres.



3,975 people deprived of their liberty received nutrition support.

PORTRAITS OF RESILIENCE

Despite their day-to-day difficulties, the people living in the communities where we work are unwaveringly hopeful. Their ability to overcome adversity is both motivating and contagious. When people like Patricia, Natacha, Ramón, Pedro and Rosangelis reach out to us, it is because they want to work with us, share ideas and find solutions.

For us, working alongside the very people we are trying to help is the only way forward. They are best placed to know what they need and whether a solution is appropriate for them. This means we can be sure that our work is truly effective and meaningful for the people we are striving to help.

